

### *Bill Would Provide Medical Treatment and Compensation Still Not Funded 9 Years After Worst Terrorist Attacks in American History*

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement on the final passage of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. Hinchey is an original cosponsor of the legislation and worked other members of the New York delegation to secure its passage.

"Nine years after our country was brutally attacked, the men and women who risked everything to save others will finally receive the healthcare and compensation they deserve," said Hinchey. "It's astonishing that a minority of Senators filibustered and delayed vital medical treatment and assistance to the firefighters, police, nurses, EMTs, construction workers and everyday citizens who risked their own health during rescue and recovery efforts following the worst terrorist attacks in American history. Today, however, those obstructionists lost and our 9/11 heroes will finally get the relief they have earned - and just in time for the holidays."

The current program to assist responders fails to adequately provide necessary medical services. The James Zadroga bill would create the World Trade Center Health Program to monitor and treat responders and community residents for health conditions related to the terrorist attacks. The bill will provide \$4.3 billion in funding for the health and compensation. The cost of these new benefits are paid for with a 2 percent fee on government procurement from foreign companies located in non-GPA countries and a one-year extension of H-B1 and L-1 Visa fees for outsourcing companies. The independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that this bill will reduce the national debt by \$450 million.

The bill builds upon the existing, unauthorized federal program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that provides monitoring and treatment services through medical Centers of Excellence to responders and community residents affected by the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. The Zadroga bill would also reopen the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 (VCF) to provide compensation for economic damages and losses to first responders, recovery workers and others injured in the aftermath of the attacks, including persons who were exposed to World Trade Center toxins during debris removal.

The House and Senate have now passed this legislation and President Obama is expected to

sign it into law shortly.

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